

REMARKS

This Response is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 27, 2009, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-17 remain in this application, where claim 7 had been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 9 and 15 are independent.

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested that the Abstract commence on a separate sheet. In response, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which commences on a separate sheet and better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended to correct a certain informality.

In the Office Action, claim 6 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second paragraph for a certain informality. In response, claim 6 has been amended to the informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection of claim 6 has been

overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 7 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 7 and 9 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 7 which has been canceled without prejudice. In addition, claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form. Further, independent claim 15 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 9.

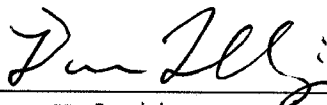
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 9 and 15 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully requested that claims 1-6, 8, 10-14 and 16-17 also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 15 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the

presented remarks. However, Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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